

Critical Agricultural Lands Conservation Fund

Criteria for selection of conservation projects

The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food has appointed an advisory committee to review and make recommendations on which projects to fund. Members of the committee were selected from the Critical Agricultural Lands Conservation Committee which was created by the Utah Commissioner of Agriculture and Food, Cary G. Peterson in 1998. The Committee will also seek recommendations from local agricultural interests and local political subdivisions.

The Critical Agricultural Lands Conservation Committee (CALCC) is intended to protect critical agricultural resource lands. The committee acknowledges earlier and continuing efforts by the various land trusts in Utah, and intends to work in harmony with those groups.

Such agricultural conservation projects may be, but not limited to, the purchase of easements or development rights to agricultural property, or long term lease of agricultural property.

In the case of private property, it is the intent of the legislature to keep these critical resource lands in private ownership while preserving the property's future agricultural contribution to the community.

The projects selection committee will advise the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food in the review and prioritization of projects that protect critical resource lands such as prime agricultural land or land classified as unique or of statewide importance. In order to ensure the highest quality of life in Utah, the exceptional values of these agricultural and critical resource lands will be the standard. These lands:

- Sustain our food supply
- Sustain and improve our water quality
- Contribute to a sense of openness in our communities
- Contribute a positive tax flow for local governments
- Support wildlife habitat

Highest priority will be given to projects that:

Incorporate additional local, state, federal or private funding sources to match those funds being requested of this committee. And projects that incorporate:

- Prime agricultural land or land that is designated unique or of statewide importance.
- Land that would promote the state's interest of self reliance
- Land that serves the critical food resource needs for the future
- Land that is compatible with existing local zoning laws
- Land that if set aside will be of such size and quality to be self-sustaining.
- Land that is subject to conversion out of agriculture

Individuals, groups or political entities wishing to submit a proposal should obtain an application for financial assistance from the Critical Agricultural Lands Conservation Fund from the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, Commissioner's Office, 350 N. Redwood Rd., P.O., Box 146500, Salt Lake City, UT 84114, (801) 538-7105. The application form is available at: www.ag.utah.gov

The Utah Legislature allocated funds to the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food in 1998 for the protection of critical resource agricultural lands.

With those funds, the Utah Commissioner of Agriculture and Food created the Critical Agricultural Land Conservation Fund. The Commissioner also formed an Advisory Committee to assist him in awarding funds to agricultural land protection projects.

The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food ("Donor") administers the Critical Agricultural Land Conservation Fund (the "Fund") and is authorized to make grants or loans to local governmental entities, or 501(c)(3) charitable organizations for the purpose of preserving or restoring certain agricultural lands.

In 1998, the Department created a statewide program, pursuant to which eligible entities could apply for money from the Fund for agricultural land protection projects.

Any recipient of funding will obtain matching (cash contributions) grants or donations.

Recipient will ensure that the property shall be held and managed in a manner designed to protect its agricultural conservation values, to prevent development that would adversely affect such values, and, where necessary, to ensure appropriate public access.